

FAX TO: 01752 661108

RE HORSMONDEN HORSE FAIR

Dear John McKenzie, Iam Marshall asked me to fax you in time for your Executive meeting tonight re attempt by Royal Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (Martin Harris, Legal Dept 01892 526121) to obtain consent from Home Office for Order under Criminal Justice Act prohibiting entry (by Romanies) to Horsmonden village, Kent, 9 to 11 September (similar Order used to stop entry to Stonhenge at Solstice).

Presume police blocks will be set up on five roads, have informed Chief Insp Alistair Hope, Ashford Police Station, a) that we intend to place stewards (with your support) at or near roadblocks to inform our people of their rights b) that we intend to hold a parade (demo) with horses and horse drawn vehicles through village - that therefore our people have legitimate reason to pass roadbloacks and proceed into village to participate in legally authorized event.

We have also said we will be holding a Gypsy picnic on the Green (without trading) and a public meeting, in the Parish Hall if Parish Council agree.

Parish Council (chairman Neil Robins) and Tunbridge Council, and Insp Hope, clearly believed Romanies could be turned away with Order. Fax from Home Office this morning says application for Order yet to be considered and points raised by our barrister Marc Willers to be taken into account.

Horsmonden means "place of the horsebreeders" (12th century) so associated with horse trading for 1,000 years. Fair going 300 years, thousands of Romanies attend, used to mark end of hop picking. On this issue Gypsy Council, Romany Rights Assoc and Romany Guild united. Many Romanies settled in and around Horsmonden, the Fair is similar to that of Appleby Fair in the North of England, a vital event in the Romany year and a part of heritage and culture.

Please call be back on 01206 523 528 for any further information you may need.

Glad to know Vladislav Balis now working with National Civil Rights Movement and that he'll be in Dover and Margate with Caravan in October. Hope to hear from you that some of your members, and Caravan?, can come to Horsmonden on 10th Sept.

Grattan Puxon

on FAX 01206 710 304